

THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, DECEMBER, 1957.



“Christmas”

Christmas is coming and soon will be here! And no Christian festival reaches out so far into the lives of people everywhere as Christmas, the Festival of the Nativity. It publishes God's good will to men, and men's good will to one another. It is true, of course, that Christmas, spreading out over vast areas, loses some of its significance, goes secular in some of its celebrations, but the wise and good in our land and other lands know what it is really all about. . . . “Unto you this day is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”

This is the birthday of the gospel of our salvation, the birthday of that better way to live which is set for us in Christ. It is right to celebrate the birthdays of famous men and women, and of movements which have blessed mankind. We are refreshed in faith and courage

by these observances. But best of all is the birthday of the Saviour of the world, by whose Spirit men are brought to peace with God, and peace with one another.

Come and worship, therefore, at the Manger, and pray this best of prayers: that Christ who was born in Bethlehem may be born in us.

May all the people of our Synod receive that greatest gift of Christmas: His re-birth in our hearts and lives.

—E. H. S.

Remember Betel

A report on work at the Betel Old Folks' Home at Gimli is presented to the readers of the Parish Messenger because we know that every member of the Church is aware of the great service that this institution has rendered to the Icelandic communities during the past 40 years and interested in its progress.

The new addition of 50 rooms, completely furnished, was opened last June. Immediately thereafter, work was started on renovating the old building. These renovations are rather extensive as the building was unsafe for occupancy by old people. There will be a new fire-proof stairway and elevator shaft alongside the present building. The second floor is being converted into a 24-bed infirmary as one-third of all the residents have been completely bed-ridden at any one time. The first floor is being re-arranged to provide a new kitchen and enlarged dining and living room accommodation. There will be a new laundry in the basement. A complete sprinkler system will be an additional safety precaution.

As building costs have risen in the last three years, the original estimate of \$180,000.00 was about 15 per cent too low. We now estimate the cost to be \$205,000.00 for the new extension and renovating the old building. The amount realized to date is \$171,000.00, leaving

a balance of \$33,500.00 to be collected.

The original estimate did not include the furnishings and special equipment. A separate campaign to meet this additional cost has been started. The estimated cost will be as follows:

Furnishings for the	
new building	\$17,500.00
(already purchased)	
Infirmary floor	6,000.00
(hospital beds and equipment)	
Kitchen and laundry	5,000.00
Third Floor	3,300.00
Main Floor	3,200.00
	<hr/>
	\$35,000.00

We have now collected \$3,200.00 for this special furnishings and equipment fund.

This gives a picture of the rather formidable job undertaken by a small group. In our opinion, this is one of the most worthy causes and one of the largest undertakings sponsored by any Icelandic group in America.

We are quite worried about our campaign because collections seem to have come to a standstill.

We have over 50 applicants waiting for admission. We shall try to accommodate them all. This will raise our occupancy to 110 residents.

Frankly, this is in the nature of a special Christmas appeal to everyone, even to those who have already contributed generously. We place this information before you in the hope that you will remember the Betel Building Fund in making your charitable donations for the year 1957.

P. H. T. Thorlakson,
Campaign Chairman.
E. Grettir Eggertson,
Chairman, Central Committee.

THE PARISH MESSENGER

News Journal of the Icelandic
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of
America.

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MRS. R. GOODMAN
87 Fidler Ave. — Winnipeg 12, Man.

The President Speaks

An important matter in the life of the Church which is often overlooked by both lay people and pastors is this matter of "ethics" in the relationship between people and their former pastors. Inattention to this important matter can cause trouble and unhappiness in parish life. An excellent article on this question by Dr. L. H. Steinhoff, President of the Pacific Synod, ULCA, recently appeared in their synodical paper. Since its message is relevant to all synods, I submit it to ours:

"A MATTER OF ETHICS"

"We'll call this article PERIOD, for that's the subject of it. It might be called EXCLAMATION POINT! We address ourselves to the people of our congregations, to alert them to something pastors know already (or should know) and do (or should do).

When a pastor leaves a parish, he **leaves it. Period.** He should not be asked to come back for ministerial acts — "You married us, now you must baptize our baby"; you buried grandpa, now you must bury grandma, too". Expect your present pastor to officiate. Recognize the pastoral office, rather than being motivated by personal feelings.

Do not make it difficult for your former pastor by compelling him to say "No" to you, as he should, ethically. He loves you in the Lord, as he always did. But now you have another pastor of your own, who is your spiritual guide and counsellor.

Exceptions to this principle, to be exercised rarely, are in the case of a specific invitation, for good reason, by the current pastor to

his predecessor, or a vacancy in the parish, when requests should be channelled through the offices of Synod.

By the same principle, it is **not good** to run back to a former pastor, even by correspondence, with troubles and woes. While he was there, he **was your pastor**; now he is somewhere else, and **another** is your pastor.

Nor does the ethical pastor revisit his former parish — especially not the homes of members of the same. To come to a public gathering — worship or fellowship — on invitation of the current pastor, is one thing. But to visit around among the members — NO, **capital NO, PERIOD.** So please don't expect it, or put him "on the spot" by asking him to do it.

All of which is in the interest of Christian ethics and Christian love. Most of you know this, and observe it. We trust all of you will understand.

—Dr. L. H. Steinhoff"

One other matter I bring to our attention before the end of the year: Our Synodical financial year end is now the end of the Calendar Year — Dec. 31st. Books will be kept open till Jan. 15th to give congregations opportunity to send in their synod Apportionment for 1957. Congregations, **PLEASE** make every effort to pay your apportionment in full, or as much as possible, before that date. Remember our Treasurer's address: Mr. Oscar Bjorklund, 732 Riverwood Ave., Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Man.

This is the Lord's work, let's be on with it!

—THE REV. ERIC H. SIGMAR

Parish News Flashes

GIMLI

In a determined effort to raise their sights both financially and spiritually, members of the Gimli congregation are engaging in the Sector Project for Christian Stewardship, which has been put into practice in many Lutheran parishes recently. Dr. F. E. Scribner is Chairman of the Project, and active church members have been placed on various committees to carry out the different phases of the plan. Following committee meetings, which set out objectives and decided the best ways to carry them out, it was decided that a visitation committee should make an every-member canvass to present the plan to all and ask for their personal support both financially and in the giving of themselves in prayer, Bible reading, church attendance and service. At a congregational dinner held November 3, most of the 270 members heard the chairman outline the plan, and listened to an address by a young layman, Mr. Robert Goodman of St. Stephen's Church in Silver Heights. An objective of \$10,000 was set for congregational giving, the raising of membership to 3,000 and a substantial increase in communing membership sought. It was decided to subscribe to The Lutheran for every member of the church. On the afternoon of November 10, visitors began their canvass, and the pledge cards were still coming in at date of writing. By the end of November, 108 cards pledging more than \$6,000 had come in and more were expected. The next step is an Evangelical programme, designed to increase membership and attendance. A group of ladies are studying membership background in preparation for this stage of the plan.

Members of the Viking Luther

League gathered at Gimli, October 26, for a rally, with about 160 in attendance from the various branches of the League in Manitoba and North Dakota. Devotions were led by Pastor Skulason, and the day included games, songs, a band, a play enacted by the Gimli League and refreshments.

The choir is preparing special Christmas music under the direction of FO. Ted Lee, who is temporarily helping us out as choir-master.

We close with a special greeting to all readers of the Parish Messenger that they may share the blessings of the Christmas season and carry the warmth of love kindled anew at this anniversary of Christ's birth with them throughout the coming year.

—MRS. E. HOWARD

LANGRUTH

We deplore the fact that we have missed reporting in the last two issues of the Parish Messenger, but we will rectify that to some extent.

On Sunday, June 9, five young people made their confirmation vows before a large congregation. They were: Carolyn Kathryn Johnson of Silver Ridge; Alvin Keith Johnson of Amaranth; Frederick Lloyd Isfeld, Theodor Peter Jonasson and James Bodvar Magnusson of Langruth. Rev. Eric Sigmar of Silver Heights, Winnipeg, performed the confirmation service. His service was sincere and heartfelt as always. His theme "I Promise" made us think back on our confirmation vows and our promise to God. We were very happy to receive these fine young people into our church. Mrs. B. Bjarnarson is preparing a class for next year's confirmation.

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Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

LANGRUTH

(Continued from Page 4)

On June 30, we concluded our Sunday School for the summer months by having a picnic at the lake attended by Sunday School children, parents and friends. This always is a much looked-for occasion, where we have races for all ages, and have a most enjoyable time. Awards were given for perfect attendance at Sunday School. Judy Johanson and Robert Thompson each won a gold pin for perfect attendance. Vicki Tomasson had her sixth year added to her attendance pin. Laurel Marteinson had her fourth year added to her attendance pin.

In July we held a successful Vacation Church School, held in the public school because of water in the church basement. Forty-five children were enrolled and eight teachers. The Vacation School was much enjoyed by the children. The tiny tots are still talking of 'cation school and what they did there. We find the Vacation School gives the children added Biblical knowledge and that they enjoy the experience of spending a part of their summer holidays together in Christian fellowship.

The Luther League has reassumed their activities. The Senior Luther League was unable to attend the Luther League Rally held at Gimli, with the exception of Mrs. B. Bjarnarson, their leader, who found the rally refreshing and stimulating. The young people were keen and intent on really making our Viking Luther League a going concern. Three cheers to the Gimli Luther League for their splendid hospitality.

To return to our League's activities, we have changed our meeting day from every Monday night to

the first Sunday in every month. We were going to dispense with lunch but the boys strongly objected and you know how we girls are about pleasing the boys. Well the boys won out. A dance is coming up on Friday, November 29. We all hope to have a good time if the gang turns out.

The Junior Luther Leaguers are as busy as bees. In October they held a Friendship Tea, with a Free Will Offering. The girls were waitresses and all enjoyed their effort. Last Friday, November 22, they had a hay ride out to Valdi Valdionarson's farm, four miles away. The snow was softly falling, the boys scampered around in the hay and had a lovely time. The Junior Luther League hold their meetings every Tuesday evening.

Our church is in the process of being improved and prettied up. A new plastering job has been done on the Narthex of the church. Tiles have been laid in the basement floor to drain the water that has been threatening to ruin the foundations of our church. Fresh cement was then poured on the floor and a neat plastering job was done. The walls are being lined. An oil furnace has been installed. A modern kitchen is to be built before Christmas. An electric stove was donated by Paul Goodman of Winnipeg. The Women's Missionary Society is paying for the installation of the stove. It has been rumored that our Ladies Aid will finance the building of the kitchen. We hope to have all in readiness by Christmas.

May God bless you all this coming Christmas and may His Glory shine round about you.

ELIZABETH (BONNIE)
BJARNARSON.

Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

SVOLD

Our seven Luther Leaguers faithfully attended the meetings at Mountain. In October they were in charge of the Children's Day Service in Peters Church. John Dinusson and Carol Pleasance gave the sermons; Marcella Hannesson read the gospel lesson; Conrad Hillman read the Epistle and Merida Pleasance led the prayer. Ushers were Billy Pleasance and Arthur Hillman. Members of the Catechism Class were the choir. A special offering was taken for Luther League work. Mrs. K. D. Dinusson is adult advisor for the Parish Luther League. The Svold Luther Leaguers serve as follows in the Parish League: President — Carol Pleasance; Chairman of the Mission Committee — Arthur Hillman; John Dinusson serves on the Evangelism Committee; Merida Pleasance on the Social Action Committee; Billy Pleasance on the Mission Committee; Conrad Hillman on the Recreation Committee; and Marcella Hannesson on the Vocation Committee.

The Peters Church was filled to capacity for the Confirmation Services, Sunday, November 17th. Rev. Olafur Skulason confirmed the following young people: Conrad Hillman, John Dinusson, Merida Pleasance, Marcella Hannesson, Josephine Klindt, Earl Klindt, Janice Mountain, Charlotte Scheinheit, Rebecca Thompson, Arlo Dinusson, Robert Johnson, Jonas Nelson and Aldis Abrahamson. Special rendition of the Hallson-Peters choir was "More Like the Master". Rev. Skulason's sermon to the Confirmants was very inspiring to all. A great number of members took communion.

The annual meeting of Peter's Congregation was held in November. Two new trustees were elect-

ed: Dean Bjornson and John Klindt. Trustees whose terms did not expire are K. D. Dinusson, Sig Dalsted and William Johnson. Retiring trustees were Eldon and Everett Hillman. The congregation decided to increase their Benevolence to 50 per cent of apportionment. We gave \$50.00 to the Borg Building Fund. Annual reports were given by Pastor Skulason, William Johnson and Sig Dalsted. Eldon Hillman gave a report on the Synodical Convention. Mrs. Palmi Hannesson read the Sunday School report. It was decided to recheck the membership list.

Several members of our congregation attended the party sponsored by the Parish Men at Mountain, Monday evening, November 25th. The slides of the Holy Land shown by Rev. Megaarden of Grafton, were much appreciated by all present. The men were excellent hosts and the evening was enjoyed by all.

We will go to Hallson for our Thanksgiving Service. Hallson and Peters choirs continue to practice and sing together for services.

—MRS. ALPHA STURLAUGSON

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our congregation has been busy this fall with the Sector Project for Christian Stewardship. At least 50 adult members took part in this educational stewardship program as members of study committees about the congregation's activity and needs. The project was climaxed with an Every Member Visit, and the results of that visitation showed a marked increase in pledges for the church's work including giving to benevol-

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Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Continued from Page 6)

ences. This shows the importance of the Sector Project in educating a large cross-section of the congregation in the total program of the work of the church.

Attendance at services for the Sundays in September, October and November has been 103. Enrollment in Sunday School is now 115, with an average attendance of about 90.

Teachers are busy planning the Christmas Program for the Sunday School. It will be held on Dec. 22nd at 5 p.m. in the Lodge Theatre since our place of worship is too small to accommodate the expected crowd.

Since September two new organizations have been organized in our congregation: "Men of St. Stephen's" and "Luther League" of the congregation. Already 35 different men have attended meetings of the men's group. It has an executive committee of nine men, with Mr. Jack Kirby as President. The Luther League has an executive of five young people with Neil Bardal Jr. as President.

A number of new members have been received into membership of our congregation this fall; some by transfer of membership, but many by adult confirmation. Pastor Jack Larson was the very effective speaker at our Congregational Dinner for the Sector Project in November.

SELKIRK

At the evening service on October 20, the Rev. Edward A. Day was formally installed as Pastor by the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, President of

Synod, before a congregation numbering about two hundred. A social hour, with refreshments and an informal program followed in the parish hall.

All branches of our Church work have begun a new year of activity. We are happy to announce the formation of two Luther Leagues. The Juniors (between ages nine and thirteen) now have forty-seven members and are under the capable and energetic guidance of Miss Jackie Erickson. They form a Youth Choir for monthly participation in the morning service and are now rehearsing Latin, Icelandic, German and English Christmas carols for late December carolling at the homes of our older members and at the local hospital. The Senior Luther League (ages fourteen to seventeen) has 21 members and is emphasizing service projects for the local Church. Pastor and Mrs. Day are advisors to this group.

Our participation in the Sector Project for Stewardship was launched at a congregational dinner on November 14, at which Dr. Earl Treusch, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Lutheran Council, was the speaker. Forty persons took part in the visitation, which began the following Sunday. Results, while still incomplete at this writing, already show the reaching of record peaks for this congregation in numbers pledging, per capita pledges, and in total amounts pledged for current, benevolence, and hall debt retirement purposes. Grimur Elman was General Chairman and W. P. Thorsteinson headed the actual visiting organization.

Since our last report on parish activities, sixteen new members have joined the congregation. Another group is being prepared for reception on December 15.

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Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

SELKIRK

(Continued from Page 7)

The monthly evening Icelandic service conducted by the Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson, is being encouragingly attended.

—CHRISTIE JOHNSON

ICELANDIC-VANCOUVER

Dear Readers:

I am happy to bring greetings to you from the pastor and congregation of the Icelandic Lutheran Church, Vancouver — "the church of the lighted steeple". Those of you who attended synodical convention here in July, 1956, will remember the formal dedication of this church. That was a joyous occasion in the life of this congregation, and the work of the church has gone on with added interest and enthusiasm, inspired by this beautiful church home.

The annual meeting of the congregation was held October 23, in the lower auditorium of the church, with President G. J. Henrikson in the chair. A hymn was sung, followed by a scripture reading by the pastor. Then came the reports from the various organizations. The Rev. E. S. Brynjolfsson's report read as follows: Total services held during the year, 132; 58 of these in the English language and 48 in Icelandic and 26 at "Hofn", the home of the aged. Marriages performed, 27; funerals, 20; baptisms, 40.

Members elected on the board of trustees for the 1957-58 term are: President, G. J. Henrikson; Secretary, J. Potter; Treasurer, Allan Stefanson; Trustees — E. S. Felsted, V. Baldwinson, B. Kolbeins, A. Wathne, G. Helgason, J. Sigurdson, Dr. G. W. Gell, G. Miles. Board

of Deacons — O. Stefanson, Chairman; Mrs. O. Stefanson, Mrs. W. Mooney, Miss J. Johnson, Miss C. Breckman, Mrs. Walker, Mr. C. Isford. Mr. J. Erlendson is superintendent of Sunday School, and reported a growing membership and good attendance.

Mrs. Gudrun Hallson, President of the W.A., recently re-elected for a second term of office, gave a splendid account of what her society had accomplished. This included the Thanksgiving dinner October 21, when the ladies served a delicious turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, to a capacity crowd. The annual bazaar will be held November 20. Mrs. G. Sveinbjornson, W. A. Treasurer, reported a \$1,700 gift to the church. President of the Luther League is Herb Hallson. The leaguers are paying for the piano.

Mr. L. H. Thorlakson was re-elected for a second term as Stewardship Secretary and in that capacity has been appointed chairman of the "Sector Project" for which committees have been named, and work is progressing favorably. A detailed and interesting report on the synodical convention held last June at Mountain, N.D., written by Mrs. E. S. Felsted, but in her absence read by Mrs. G. Johanneson, was well received.

Guest speakers at church services have included Rev. Benjamin Kristjanson, Laugalandi, Iceland; Rev. Skuli Sigurgeirson, Edmore, N.D.; Rev. G. P. Johnson, Seattle, Washington; and Rev. Heinar, Estonian pastor of this city.

These then, were the highlights of our meeting, which was very well attended. After the meeting the ladies served coffee and cake.

In October, Rev. Eric Sigmar, President of Synod, was guest of

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Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

ICELANDIC-VANCOUVER

(Continued from Page 8)

honor at an open meeting in the church. He gave a very interesting account of the third assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, last summer. This was preceded by scripture reading and singing of hymns and followed by an anthem by the choir with John Henrikson, soloist. A social hour in the lower auditorium, where the ladies served a delicious lunch and coffee, was much enjoyed.

Hearty congratulations to two couples who have recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Eymundson were married in Winnipeg on August 22, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Lindal J. Hallgrimson were married in the Grund Church, Argyle, on November 6, 1907. The late Rev. Jon Bjarnason, D.D., officiated at both weddings.

—GUDLAUG JOHANNESSON

HALLSON

The Hallson and Peters Confirmation classes completed their study and reading with Pastor Skulason in November. I know they will miss their classes and visits a lot. The five who were confirmed at the Hallson Church are Judy Crawston, Edna Spangelo, Stewart, Judy and Martha Moore. We had two very nice sermons and special music for both services. We were sorry Judy Moore had the flu and could not be with the class; she also missed being present when the class had their pictures taken, the Saturday before Confirmation Sunday. The pictures are very good and will be a wonderful keepsake.

The Ladies Aids, Svold and Hallson, gave each Confirmant, Rev. Skulason and our faithful organist, a red carnation to wear on their white gowns.

We also gained two new members — Welcome folks.

The Hallson Congregation held their Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 17, with a good attendance. Two new members were elected to the Church Board. They are: Mrs. Einar Einarson and John Einarson, Jr. The Board will hold its regular meeting in December.

Our Sunday School will have a short program after our Christmas sermon. Hope flu and weather holds off and every one can be present. The Hallson Ladies Aid will furnish a trimmed tree, candy and apples for this occasion, as they always have done in the past. Our Thanksgiving service will be held December 1.

—MRS. W. M. SPANGELO

VIDALIN

The annual meeting of our congregations was held in the Church November 21, with Russell Anderson presiding. Reports were rendered by the Treasurer; Sunday School; our delegate to the Luther League Convention in Lawrence, Kansas; our delegates to the Synodical Convention; and the Mountain Parish Men.

In his report, Rev. Skulason reported we had held 27 regular worship services, seven infant baptisms and two adult, one confirmant and six funerals. Orville Thorlakson and Albert Stefanson were elected members of the Church Council. A delicious pot-luck lunch and social hour followed.

—ELLEN ERLENDSON

Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

FJALLA

The first service was held at Easter, April 21, assisted by the Mountain choir. There being no choir in our church, it was greatly appreciated. We have had services every other Sunday all summer, whenever it was possible. We have had a very good attendance.

We do not have a Sunday School here now, but the children attend Sunday School in Milton. Some of the pupils have attended the Bible Vacation School at Mountain the past two years.

The young people belong to the Luther League at Mountain in which they are very interested and have taken an active part. Luther Leaguers, Herman Bjornson and David Goodman were delegates to the Luther League Convention in Kansas City and gave a very good report on the Convention at one of the church services.

The Fjalla and Eyford Ladies Aids served dinner and 3:30 refreshments to the convention guests Monday, June 24.

Denise Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Papenfuss of Cavalier, N.D., born March 7, 1957, was baptized May 19th by Pastor Skulason; sponsors were Gudrun and Sigurjon Finnson, uncle and aunt of the infant.

Thorey Magnusson and George Green were married July 6, in Vikur Church at Mountain by Pastor Skulason.

Jerome David Goodman was confirmed in the Gardar Church June 16. Doreen E. Einarson, Janet J. Goodman, John O. Bjornson, Robert E. Bjornson were confirmed into the Fjalla Congregation and Harland Asmundson into Thingvalla on November 10, in our church. The Vikur choir helped again in the services.

Services were conducted by Pas-

tor Skulason September 11, for Herman Bjarnason who died September 6, at the age of 89. He was one of our oldest members and a very active church member. He retired five years ago after serving 52 years as secretary of our congregation.

We do not have services in our church through the winter months, but have been invited to join the other churches in the Mountain Parish in their services until spring.

—MRS. ETHEL EINARSON

VIKUR

Rev. O. Skulason returned from the Evangelism Mission in Pennsylvania October 19. He reports it to have been a tremendous success, and that he enjoyed it very much. It was the largest Evangelism Mission ever held.

The Luther League had a Youth Service in the Mountain church October 6, with the young people in charge. The purpose of this service was to put into practice the "Priesthood of all Believers" and to give the young people a chance to grow spiritually by leading others in worship. The Luther League Rally held in Gimli October 26, was attended by a number of our young people.

The choir sponsored a very successful program in the Legion Hall October 9. The proceeds went toward the Carpet Fund. The Sunday School also contributed to the Carpet Fund. The Sunday School now is busy preparing a Christmas program.

The Sector Project was adopted by the Vikur Congregation. G. K. Halldorson was elected General Chairman. The various committees have been appointed. The

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Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

VIKUR

(Continued from Page 10)

Publicity and the Research Committees held their first meeting at the parsonage November 4. The Publicity Committee consists of: Mrs. Hannes Melsted, Chairman; Mrs. O. Bernhaft, Mrs. Ruby de Regnier, Mrs. Richard Thorfinnson and Mr. Al Okeson. The Research Committee: Mr. F. M. Einarson, Chairman; Walter Halldorson, Rev. Skulason, S. V. Hanneson and G. K. Halldorson.

The annual meeting of the Vikur congregation was held November 9, in the church. A bulletin, prepared by our pastor, containing the various reports — Secretary, Treasurer, Pastor, Deaconesses, Sunday School, Evangelism Secretary, Stewardship Secretary, Choir, Organist, Men of the Parish and Luther League — were distributed to the members. This bulletin was very much appreciated because it not only conserved time, but also allowed the members to take home these reports to study them. G. K. Halldorson gave a report on the Convention held here this June. A. E. Paulson, William Algeirson and K. F. Gudmundson were elected trustees. The two deaconesses elected were Mrs. Wm. K. Halldorson and Mrs. M. Steinolfson. The two Sunday School Committee members elected were Mrs. K. Halldorson and Mrs. Robert Readell. A committee was appointed to bring the constitution up to date. Rev. Skulason led in closing prayer. Lunch was served by the Deaconesses.

On November 25 Pastor Megaarden of Grafton showed slides from the Holy Land and other places of interest of his trip around the world. The Men of the Mountain Parish served lunch.

The Executive Committee of the Synod is scheduled to meet in Mountain December 3.

A Communion Service will be held December 8, in the Mountain Church.

—MRS. JACK THORFINSON

ARGYLE

The community was deeply saddened by the death of Conrad Nordman on August 14 at the age of 71. He had been a very staunch supporter of the church, being organist at Bru Church since it was built. The funeral was held at Bru on August 17, conducted by Rev. Johann Frederickson and assisted by student Donald Olson.

Mr. William C. Frederickson passed away on September 18, at the Winnipeg General Hospital, aged 81. The funeral service was held at the Baldur Lutheran Church on September 21, conducted by Rev. M. Lake. Burial was in Baldur Cemetery.

Mrs. Sigridur Landy, widow of the late Sigurdur Landy of Bru, passed away the 25th of October, at the Betel Home at Gimli. The funeral was held at Bru on the 28th of October. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Sigurdur Olafson of Winnipeg, formerly Selkirk.

Mr. Magnus Skardal passed away at Baldur on October 28, at the age of 87. The funeral service was held in Baldur Lutheran Church October 30, conducted by Rev. J. Maxwell of Glenboro.

Miss Rebecca Anderson, postal clerk of Baldur, passed away at Baldur Hospital on November 13 at the age of 51. The funeral service was held at the United Church on November 15, conducted by Rev.

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Parish News Flashes (cont'd)

ARGYLE

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M. Lake. Burial was in Grund Cemetery.

Two laymen services have been held in our Argyle Parish: one at Grund on October 20, conducted by Mr. B. S. Johnson of Grund, assisted by Mr. T. E. Oleson, of Glenboro; the other was held at Glenboro on November 10 and was conducted by Dr. R. Helgason, assisted by Mr. F. S. Presunka of Glenboro. Both services were much appreciated in the absence of a resident pastor.

The Sunday Schools in the Parish are now preparing their annual Christmas programs.

The Argyle Parishes wish everyone a Joyous, Holy, Christmas.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH — BALDUR

The Immanuel Lutheran Congregation celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the church on Sunday, November 3, by holding a service at 3:00 o'clock commemorating the event. The guest speaker was Rev. Eric Sigmar, a former Pastor. His theme was "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". Rev. Sigmar also sang a solo, "Prayer" by Guion. The choir sang two Icelandic numbers in honour of their older Icelandic members; Mr. Oli Anderson, the only original member present, sang the solo part of the Anthem. He was presented with a gift from the Sunday School and choir in appreciation of his many years of leadership in both. Mr. Oli Oliver, the only other living member who joined the choir those fifty years ago, was unable to attend.

A fellowship hour was held after

the service in the Memorial Hall, where a lunch was served by the members of the congregation. We were pleased so many visitors attended our service.

—Secretary of the
Immanuel Lutheran Congregation

Lutheran Sunday School by Mail

New enrolments are received from day to day. They come from many places. Some of the more recent ones came from North Battleford, Sask., Grayson, Sask., Hallson, N.D., Otthon, Sask., Arch-erwill, Sask., Melville, Sask., Clyde, Alta., Prince George, B.C., and Ardenode, Alta.

There must be many more children in the west who should be enrolled. If you know some children who should be receiving these lessons please send their name, address, age and grade in school to the Lutheran Sunday School by Mail, Lutheran College and Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask.

Within the past few weeks financial support for the work of the Lutheran Sunday School by Mail has come from Sunday schools, congregations, U.L.C.W., Ladies' Aids, Vacation Church Schools, Luther Leagues and In Memoriums. This is much appreciated and makes it possible to carry on this work.

A Sunday school class of 16 juniors in Charlotte, North Carolina heard about the Lutheran Sunday School by Mail from their teacher. They decided they wanted to help other boys and girls receive Sunday school lessons. For a year they brought extra offerings as they were able. Finally the time came to send their offerings. The letter telling of their interest contained a cheque for \$35.00!



He Empowers Us To Strengthen Our Church United



He gave us the vision, the courage to challenge ourselves by doubling the budget — the "doing power" — of ULCA causes next year. His promises reassure us that it can be done if we willingly answer His call to pledge and to give in self-denial — if every confirmed member increases benevolence giving by 55% to 70% — if every congregation strives to give 110% to 150% of 1958 apportionment. A complete budget will provide ULCA causes with:



PRESS, RADIO & TV 4.8% — \$720,000
Witness outside as well as inside our church



PARISH EDUCATION 3.3% — \$494,100
Materials, aids, new Long Range Program



HOME MISSIONS 42.2% — \$6,325,000
New churches where they're needed most



SOCIAL MISSIONS 2.1% — \$318,600
Social action and evangelism



OVERSEAS MISSIONS 21.2% — \$3,181,300
Churches, schools, hospitals in 9 fields



NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL 3.9% — \$588,900
Joint action with other Lutherans



EMERGENCY FUND 5.4% — \$808,500
To meet special needs and demands



HIGHER EDUCATION 2.0% — \$304,200
Colleges, seminaries, church vocation emphasis



DEACONESS WORK .8% — \$125,800
Teaching, nursing, leadership



LUTHERAN CHURCH HOUSE 4.0% — \$600,000
Adequate facilities for church's planning and direction



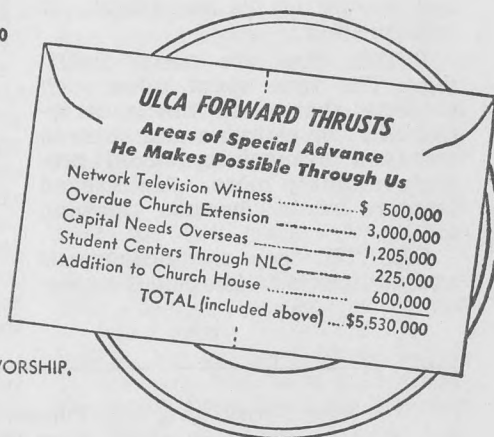
LUTHER LEAGUE, ARCHITECTURAL AID, WORSHIP, THE LUTHERAN 1.1% — \$153,000



EXECUTIVE ACTION 3.8% — \$579,700
Administration, cooperation with LWF, WCC, NCC, CLC, etc.



PENSIONS 5.4% — \$796,600
Aid to sick, aged, widows, children



**1958 ULCA BUDGET —
\$15,000,000**

INEPT MONEY RAISING

Speaking of Stewardship—

and there's a lot being said about Stewardship these days — and it's good, too, — and our people are catching on to the idea, wonderfully well — and we're glad — but once in a while we still run into relics of the past — the thinking that money for the church can be raised by direct methods, such as dinners, sales, bazaars and other methods even less dignified.

— and folks ask, "What is the matter with these things?" Well, we'll tell you —

FIRST, they are economically fallacious. We just think we are getting more money, when all we are doing is to route the same money through an indirect channel. It costs just as much to refill the pantry shelves as to give it directly.

SECOND, they are commercially unethical. The church has no right to compete with the merchant on Main street, who pays rent and fuel and light and wages and taxes and interest on his investment. It just isn't fair.

THIRD, they are energy-diverting. The time spent upon such projects, channelled into constructive lines of church work, such as visitation evangelism, would produce infinitely more. And ragged tempers would become glowing faces.

FOURTH, they are incongruous and undignified. Imagine the spec-

tacle of adult women peddling vanilla extract, cook-books, wonder soap, or sewing needles. All these are right and dignified in their place, but not in the church.

FIFTH, they put people "on the spot". Folks buy things they don't want and can't use, because they hesitate to offend "the good ladies of the church".

SIXTH, they constitute a petty graft. Commercial advertising in church bulletins comes within this category. The merchant advertises, not as advertising, but as charity. Sure, he budgets for it because he knows we are coming.

SEVENTH, they make hypocrites of people. The non-church man pays \$1 for a \$2 church dinner and thinks he is supporting the church. Question: Would he pay full value or more than value for an article?

EIGHTH, they make Church Councilmen indolent. When the budgets are drawn up, at some point the question is asked, "How much will the women give us next year?" They promptly lessen their efforts to meet the budget through legitimate means.

NINTH, they divert attention from the real program of the church. The proclamation of the Gospel is obscured in the incense of steam-tables; the Word of God is lost in a medley of knick-knacks.

—Selected

Please Notify: Mrs. J. K. Polson, 703 Clifton St., Winnipeg 10, Manitoba, of all youth work within the Parish and names of Children's Secretaries.

The Strength of Our Faith

There would still appear to be many of us, both as congregations and as individuals, who fail to recognize, realize, or understand, the urgent and immeasurable need of financial support to the world-wide work of our Lutheran Church. This support is our FIRST Christian responsibility.

Our Lord directed us, you and me, to "go out into all the world — PREACH, TEACH, and BAPTIZE". Most of us, other than a periodic participation in a local Evangelism program, cannot assume the full response to our Lord's command in a physical sense. The only way we can, as Christians, obey this command is to send a part of ourselves to do His work through our Benevolence gifts. This becomes a direct expression of our faith and belief that we, as Christians, and as members of His church, are prepared to follow Him and His Word.

Those of us who fail to do this must be, in some way, denying His Word by failing to fulfil His command to "go out into all the world". Let us all examine ourselves, as individuals and as congregations, in these three ways:

1. Examine the strength of our faith in Him and remember His many blessings and gifts to us.
2. Examine our responsibility to live by His Word and to carry out His commands.
3. Put our Faith and Christian responsibility into action by making regular gifts to "go out into all the world" through our Benevolence contributions.

Each of us will readily know our individual positions, and elsewhere in this publication appears the congregational position, with respect to this responsibility. Let us all humbly ask God's forgiveness for our past, and put our Faith into action

in our present and future. Let's put our FAITH on ACTIVE SERVICE.

R. B. VOPNI
Stewardship Secretary.

We Praise Thee, Lord

Lines by the former Secretary of the Church on the Fortieth Anniversary of the ULCA, 1918-1958.

We praise Thee, Lord. For forty years

Thy grace hath brought triumph o'er fears;

And great things wrought in Jesus' name

For blessed cause for which He came.

Good men have sought Thy will to know

And at Thy word to come or go
Until their race on earth was run
To take the prize their race had won.

As saints pass on, the tasks remain,
And others follow in their train.

The Church of Christ can never fail,

E'en gates of hell cannot prevail,
For sinful souls the call will heed
And find God's grace to meet their need.

In forty years much seed was sown,
Rich harvests reaped from what has grown.

'Twas not by might of human power
This Church was brought to this glad hour,

But by the grace of Christ within
To set souls free from guilt of sin.
We thank Thee, Lord, for blessings great,

For strength to work and grace to wait.

(Walton Harlowe Greever)
October 23, 1957

SYNOD TREASURER SPEAKS . . .

I am presenting herewith a summary of monies received during 1957 on Apportioned Benevolence, showing also the amount of each congregation's apportionment and the amounts remaining to be received if each is to attain its objective for 1957.

This report does not include unapportioned benevolence (i.e., L.W.A., Betel, Sunrise Camp, Borg, Pastors' Memorial Fund, etc.) as these amounts are transmitted to the designated benevolence as received.

When we review the financial status, we are positive that many congregations are not aware of the urgent need for benevolent funds. We are appealing to you! Please do your utmost to improve your congregation's position for the end of the year as our synod is very near the lowest of all the ULCA synods in benevolence contributions.

O. BJORKLUND, Treasurer.

	Members	General Apportionment	General Apportionment Receipts	Balance 1957 General Apportionment
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	669	\$2,742.90	\$2,088.00	\$654.90
Icelandic, Vancouver	267	1,094.70	700.00	394.70
Braethra, Riverton	263	1,078.30	147.00	931.30
Calvary, Seattle	255	1,045.50	700.00	345.50
Selkirk, Selkirk	241	938.10	200.00	738.10
Gimli, Gimli	229	938.90	244.09	694.81
Ardal, Arborg	225	922.50	223.00	699.50
Lundar, Lundar	196	803.60		803.60
St. Paul's, Minneota	175	717.50	600.00	117.50
Vikur, Mountain	162	664.20	322.58	341.62
Peters, Svold	121	496.10	255.00	241.10
Langruth, Langruth	136	557.60	323.41	234.19
St. Stephen's, St. James	119	487.90	894.02	
Vidalin, Hensel	110	451.00	425.00	26.00
Greysir, Geysir	102	418.20	25.00	393.20
Breidvikur, Hnausa	79	323.90	39.00	284.90
Glenboro, Glenboro	77	315.70	180.00	135.70
Mikley, Hecla	75	307.50		307.50
Blaine, Blaine	74	303.40	117.30	186.10
Betel, Silver Bay	67	274.70		274.70
Immanuel, Baldur	66	270.60	150.00	120.60
Fjalla, Milton	64	262.40	160.64	101.76
Vidir, Vidir	63	258.30	111.55	146.75
Arnes, Arnes	62	254.20	25.00	229.20
Lincoln, Taunton	51	209.10	162.40	46.70
Gudbrands, Morden	46	188.60	25.00	163.60
Hallson, Hallson	43	176.30	40.00	136.30
Vidines, Husavik	42	172.20	25.00	147.20
Bru, Cypress River	36	147.60	140.00	7.60
Concordia, Churchbridge	22	90.20	90.20	
Frelsis, Grund	18	73.80	74.70	
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	10	41.00	66.00	
Gardar, Gardar			83.13	
United, Cavalier			239.90	
Dr. R. Marteinson			25.00	
Mrs. O. Stephenson		437.00	3.00	
Mrs. A. S. Bardal			25.00	
Selkirk W.M.S.			100.00	
Mr. and Mrs. J. Thorgeirson			5.00	
	4,185	\$17,508.50	\$9,034.92	